REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22-33 now stand in the present application, claims 1-4 and 6-21 having been canceled. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 6-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. As noted above, in view of Applicants' cancellation of these claims, the Examiner's § 112, second paragraph, rejection of the claims is moot.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 14, 15 and 17-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Reber et al. ("Reber"), and has rejected claims 11-13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reber in view of Sweat et al. ("Sweat"). As noted above, Applicants have canceled the previous claims in lieu of newly added claims 22-33 which are believed to patentably define over the cited references, as will be described in detail below.

The newly added claims more clearly distinguish over the cited prior art. In particular, there is clearly no disclosure in Reber of the use of any templates so Reber cannot anticipate these claims. Furthermore, the Examiner's allegation that the palette of Sweat corresponds to a template is simply not correct. See, Office Action at page 11. The palettes in Sweat do not store queries or anything remotely like a query which can be used to form the basis of a search for media elements, but rather icons each of which represents a particular function which can be dragged from the palette into the

"iconic editor pane" and used to visually create an application in a similar way to the way in which visual BASIC programming is performed. Accordingly, Sweat also does not teach or suggest templates or their use as required by the present claims.

Moreover, neither Sweat nor Reber describe storing relationship meta data which indicates a type of relationship between related media objects, nor of using this relationship type information when determining how to arrange selected media objects obtained from executing the queries contained within a template, as required by the present claims. For the above reasons it is submitted that the present claims are novel and inventive over the cited prior art, taken either singly or in combination.
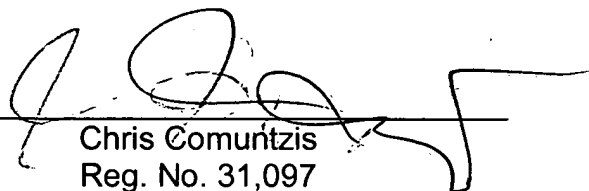
Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 22-33, now standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

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STEVENS et al
Appl. No. 10/525,381
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Respectfully submitted,

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